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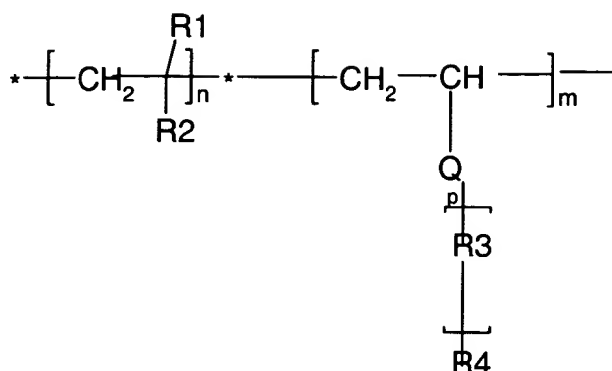
### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 13-21 to read as follows:

Applicants have surprisingly found that certain air-detraining agents based on low molecular weight block polyethers comprising ethylene oxide (EO) and propylene oxide (PO), and being initiated with an initiator containing reactive diamine or glycol groups, have excellent stability in the polymeric superplasticizer solution. Typically, such block polyethers will have molecular weights in the range from about ~~750~~ 700 to about 3500. (All molecular weights express herein are number average molecular weights.) Furthermore, the block polyethers will most preferably comprise ethylene oxide in a weight ratio of from about 10% to about 70% based on the molecular weight of the polyether.

Please amend the paragraphs beginning at page 4, line 6 through page 5, line 12 as follows:

In one embodiment, therefore, the current invention comprises a polymeric superplasticizer and an air-detraining effective amount of an air detraining agent. Preferably, the polymeric superplasticizer is a comb polymer comprised of polycarboxylic acid or partial esters to which are attached pendent groups consisting essentially of polyoxyalkylene groups. The term "polyoxyalkylene" refers to a mixture of polyoxyalkylene groups such as polyethylene oxide, polypropylene oxide and polybutylene oxide. The comb polymer employed as a polymeric superplasticizer in accordance with of the current invention can be represented by the following general formula (I):



where R<sub>1</sub> = H or CH<sub>3</sub>;

R<sub>2</sub> = COOM, OCH<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>3</sub>M, O-CO-CH<sub>3</sub>, CO-NH<sub>2</sub>, preferably COOM,

where M is a salt of Na, Ca, K, or Mg;

R<sub>3</sub> = is an alkylene oxide group selected from the group consisting of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and/or butylene oxide, and wherein the alkylene oxide groups can be in either a block or random distribution;

R<sub>4</sub> = CH<sub>3</sub> or alkyl;

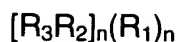
Q = C(O)O, C(O)NH, CH<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>2</sub>N, O;

m and n are such that between 98% to 2 % of m units and between about 2% to about 98% of n units are present in the polymer; and

p is between 1 to 300. A particularly preferred polymeric superplasticizer is SOKLAN® HP 80 commercially available from BASF Corporation.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 5, line 13 through pag 6, line 2 to read as follows:

In another embodiment according to the present invention, the block polyether is a block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide represented by the following general formula (II):



where  $R_1$  is an initiator containing reactive terminal groups capable of adding to  $C_2 - C_4$  epoxides, such as ethylene oxide, propylene oxide and butylene oxide;  $R_2$  is either propylene oxide or butylene oxide;  $R_3$  is ethylene oxide, and  $n$  represents the functionality of the initiator and is a number greater than or equal to 2, and wherein  $R_3$  and  $R_2$  are interchangeable in the formula. Most preferably, ethylene oxide is employed, with up to about 30% of propylene oxide. Most preferably, the initiator  $R_1$  is an alkylene diamine or glycol, such as ethylene diamine or propylene glycol.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, line 22 to page 10, line 15 to read as follows:

Additives A employed in the Examples below was an ethylene diamine initiated block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide commercially available from BASF corporation as TETRONIC® 304 surfactant. More specifically, Additive A was a polymer in accordance with Formula II above wherein  $R_1$  is ethylene diamine,  $R_2$  is propylene oxide and  $R_3$  is ethylene oxide.  $R_2$  is first added to ethylene diamine to form a propylene oxide block and then  $R_3$  is added to form the ethylene oxide block. The molecular weight of Additive A is about 1650. The molecular weight of the propylene oxide block is about 900 – 1000. The wt% of ethylene oxide in the product is about 40%. Preferred embodiment of such block polymers will have MW from about 750 – 3500 ~~3600~~, and further comprise of a propylene oxide block having a MW of about 500 - 1800 and ethylene oxide from about 10% to about 70% by weight of the surfactant. A more preferred embodiment of such block polymers will

have molecular weights of from about 1000 – 2500, and further comprise of a propylene oxide block having a MW of about 700 – 1400 and ethylene oxide from about 10% to about 70% by weight of surfactant. Most preferably, such block polymers will have molecular weights of from about 1500 – 1900, and further comprise of a propylene oxide block having a MW of about 800 – 1200 and ethylene oxide from about 10% to about 70% by weight of the surfactant.

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 11, lines 5-25 to read as follows:

The following conventional air-detraining additives commercially available from BASF Corporation were employed for purpose of comparison:

<b><u>Additive</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
MASIL <sup>®</sup> SF19	- silicone glycol with a viscosity of 40-50 centistokes
MAZU <sup>®</sup> DF210S	- silicone defoamer with a silicone content of about 10%
PLURAFAC <sup>®</sup> LF 1200 and LF7000	- fatty alcohol alkoxylates with a cloud point of about 28 <sup>0</sup> C (in water) and 30 <sup>0</sup> C (in diethylene glycol monobutyl ether)
PLURONIC <sup>®</sup> 17R2	- block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide with a MW 2150
PLURONIC <sup>®</sup> L31	- block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide with a MW 1100
PLURONIC <sup>®</sup> L64	- block copolymer of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide with a MW 3650
POLY-G <sup>®</sup> D 1000	- <u>polypropylene</u> <del>polypropylene</del> glycol with a MW of 1000

TETRONIC® 701      -      Ethylene diamine initiation tetrafunctional  
block of propylene oxide and ethylene  
oxide with a MW of 3600

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 14, lines 6-14 to read as follows:

The results of such tests ~~appears~~ appear in accompanying drawing FIGURE 1. As can be seen, the results show that both Additives A and B have the required stability in the polymeric superplasticizer of the invention and also are able to significantly reduce the excessive air entrained by the polymeric superplasticizer. The results also show that the reduction in the air-entrainment achieved by the stable, air-detraining additives of the invention allows the formulator to achieve very nearly the same air content as that attained with concrete slurries containing no superplasticizer (i.e., the "Control" in FIGURE 1) or with conventional superplasticizers that do not entrain excessive air (i.e., Degressal SD20, sodium naphthalene formaldehyde ~~condensates~~ condensates (NSFC) and Polymeric SP (Sokalan HP80) in FIGURE 1).